



**EMIGRATION CANYON**  
METRO TOWNSHIP



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# Emigration Canyon Metro Township

## Night Sky Ordinance Discussion Memo

**To:** Emigration Canyon Metro Township Planning Commission  
**From:** Matthew Starley, MSD Long Range Planner / Jim Nakamura, MSD Planner II  
**Date:** May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**Re:** Night Sky Ordinance Discussion Outline

**Issue:** The Metro Township desires to encourage outdoor lighting practices that will minimize light pollution, glare, light trespass, and sky glow to curtail the degradation of the night-time environment. The Metro Township has also expressed interest in promoting lighting practices which encourage energy conservation. Revisions to Municipal Code: **19.73.110 Night Lighting** ordinance are necessary to improve the night-time visual environment.

**Background:** Emigration Canyon Metro Township is interested in updating its Night Lighting Ordinance and Code. This is a worthy project, as the benefits of improving the quality of the night-time environment for community members and the natural environment are well documented and numerous.

This effort is well supported by our recently adopted general plan. Supporting the adoption of a dark sky ordinance is mentioned twice in the General Plan Work Program.

General Plan Link: <https://ec-lrp-hub-gslmsd.hub.arcgis.com/>

- **Goal 2.3:** Preserve and enhance ecological features, viewsheds, wildlife corridors, and open space.
  - **Objective 2.3.2:** Preserve and enhance views of the night sky and protections for nocturnal wildlife.
    - *Support the adoption of a Dark Sky compliant light-pollution control ordinance.*
- **Goal 5.3:** Preserve and enhance natural areas and ensure that landscapes are functional and diverse.
  - **Objective 5.3.3:** Preserve and enhance views of the night sky and protections for nocturnal wildlife.
    - *Support the adoption of a Dark Sky compliant light-pollution control ordinance.*

MSD planning staff have received comments from members of the planning commission on the issue of a Dark Sky Ordinance, as well as feedback on some example ordinances that were circulated to the planning commission. MSD Planning Staff would like to present to the planning commission what have

heard and learned so far, and work with them to chart a path forward toward creation, adoption, and application of an updated Night Sky Ordinance.

**Following is a brief outline of what we hope to cover:**

- **Dark Sky Overview**
  - What is a dark sky ordinance?
  - Why apply a dark sky ordinance?
  - How is a dark sky ordinance effectively enforced?
- **General plan guidance**
- **Breakdown of Planning Commission Comments**
  - Statements in support of the ordinance.
  - Things that the Ordinance Should Include.
    - Elements and Content
    - Ordinance Layout and Design
    - Example that should/could be followed
    - Specific lighting issues
  - Things that the ordinance should not include
  - Questions that should be addressed
- **Next Steps**

**Proposal:** It is in the best interest of the Metro Township to update current code regarding Night Lighting and establish lighting standards, requirements, and processes that are substantially consistent throughout Metro Township Municipal Code.